

JULY TIP SAVINGS: \$250-\$350/YR

Avoided Emissions of CO₂: Up to 550 lbs./YR (& up to 60,000 gal. saved)



\$USTAINABILITY \$AVINGS TIP



CONSIDER A LANDSCAPE CONVERSION

Trade your water-thirsty landscape for a Xeriscape

It's summertime! The grass is finally greening up and even filling in nicely where you had brown spots. The conditions are perfect... perfect for killing your Bermuda lawn that is.

Keeping a green, attractive lawn isn't a simple task in the low desert. Grass doesn't just grow where there is bare ground. You have to water it, feed it, aerate it, and then there's the mowing, blowing, edging and dethatching to do.

If you're tired of all that time and effort, and if you've entertained the idea of converting your grassy knoll to a colorful desert landscape or Xeriscape, the best time is right now. Herbicides that kill the grass are most effective when the grass is actively growing.

Xeriscape is derived from the Greek word xeros meaning dry, and it is defined as creative landscaping for water and energy efficiency.

CONVERSION TIPS

1. Before removing the grass, evaluate your site and have a follow-up plan in place.
2. Turning off the water to your lawn is not a good way to kill the grass. Bermuda lawns can have very deep root systems which can continue to live for years on rain alone.
3. Plastic sheeting is not recommended as a method to kill or control the grass. The plastic eventually breaks down and tears leaving the landscape unsightly and difficult to cleanup.
4. Typically, a systemic herbicide is most effective as it will kill the grass roots and all. Look for the active ingredient, glyphosate, in products such as RoundUp, Touchdown, Kill-Zall or Doomsday.
5. Do not use a soil sterilizer or complete vegetation killer. These chemicals can travel through the soil and kill desirable plants.
6. Using the appropriate adaptors, grass sprinkler systems can be easily converted to drip systems.

CHECKLIST FOR SAVINGS

- ☐ **To learn more**, attend our July *Living Green Workshop Series*. The Saturday July 9th program is ***Grass-to-Xeriscape: Replace Your Lawn with a Beautiful Desert Landscape***. Call (480) 644-4400 or visit www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability. Location: Dobson Ranch Branch Library.
- ☐ **Check out our \$500 rebate** and our "Top Ten Reasons to Convert from Grass to Xeriscape" at www.mesaaz.gov/conservation.
- ☐ **Request free brochures and guides for grass removal and desert landscaping** at our City of Mesa water conservation site at www.mesaaz.gov/conservation/publications.aspx.
- ☐ **Find books on desert landscaping and watering** at City of Mesa Library, visit www.mesalibrary.org/research/living-green.aspx.

\$START \$AVING

Start saving by taking out your grass, and doing your part for *building a sustainable community*. Visit our Web site for more sustainability savings tips at www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability.

Learn to live Green